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# featuring UD

Story ideas for print and broadcast media

August 3, 1990

## STUDENT MATH RESEARCHERS AT UD ARE READYING FOR CONFERENCE TALKS

Ten undergraduate college students from around the country have spent the last seven weeks at the University of Dayton being paid to explore the creative aspects of mathematics research--and they are about to share their findings with colleagues at an annual mathematics conference.

Aparna Higgins, assistant professor of math, and Harold Mushenheim, associate professor of math, are the directors of the summer math research program at UD. They will accompany the students to the American Mathematical Society (AMS) and Mathematical Association of America (MAA) annual meeting in Columbus Aug. 7-11. The group will leave UD Tuesday, Aug. 7, at about 1 p.m.

"There are three goals in the summer program," said Higgins. "First, the students choose their own research problems, and then, second, they perform the research. The third goal is communicating the results at the annual conference."

On Monday, Aug. 6, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m., the students will be giving run-through presentations of their findings in Sherman Hall Room 113, with Higgins and Mushenheim providing constructive criticism.

A November 1988 study by the AMS and MAA cited a need for more mathematicians with doctoral degrees and noted that nearly half of the 804 doctoral degrees awarded from U.S. universities in 1987 went to non-Americans. The UD program is designed to help undergraduate college students expand their knowledge of math and to address the growing national shortage of students who choose math as a career.

"The idea is to show students what it would be like for them to pursue math careers," said Higgins. The program is funded, in part, by a two-year \$32,000 National Science Foundation grant. The students live in on-campus housing and earn a \$2,000 stipend for their research.

For interviews, contact Aparna Higgins at (513) 229-2103. For assistance in scheduling interviews, contact Teri Rizvi or Pam Huber at (513) 229-3241.



*The University of Dayton*

For further information or assistance in scheduling interviews, contact Office of Public Relations, (513) 229-3241.